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The following is a report submitted by Mr. Alfreds Bersins, member of the Latvian Consultative Panel and former Minister of Public Relations of Latvia, on changes in the Latvian exile political circles in Sweden.

"LATVIAN ACTIVITIES IN SWEDEN"

"On September 13, the Latvian Temporary National Council in Sweden held its first meeting, thus bringing to a successful end long years of discussions and, for the first time, uniting in joint activities the various political trends.

"Until now, two unsuccessful and irreconcilable groups had been working in Sweden. These were the Social-Democrats headed by Bruno Kalnins and Liberals with Ja is Breiks and Mintauts Sakste. From over 3,000 Latvians in Sweden, these groups had been able to unite only 250 followers and sympathisers. But they had been successful in contacting the leading party of their exile country - the Socialdemocrats - and thus were able to receive assistance for their activities. They monopolized all rights for a democracy and constantly attacked all representatives of other exile groups, accusing them of fascism and cooperation with the German occupants. As a result of denunciations by Kalnins, several Latvian public officials (Prof. Straubergs and Prof. Palodis) were ordered to move their residence from the city of Stockholm to the country. A bitter fight was waged for a long time, and sometimes both sides forgot even to be just. Hate resulted in members of families belonging to different parties being forbidden to attend joint private affairs, or they were suspected of "conspiracy". Br. Kalnins' group used as their weapon the time of Ulmanis, describing this as fascistic, and further blamed the German occupation years. The other side again accused Kalnins' group of cooperation with the Communists during their first occupation.

"First move towards cooperation was started about a year ago by a member of the Farmers' Union, agronomist Andersons. Both sides soon realized that too much energy had been spent without obtaining any results and decided for cooperation.

"The Temporary Latvian National Council of Sweden consists of 30 members. 20 represent various refugee organizations, but 10 represent the former larger political parties;

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3 Farmers' Union, 3 Socialdemocrats, one representative from Liberals, Catholics and right wingists. First Liberals refused to join the Council, but later after having seen that all others were for cooperation, the Liberals joined the majority.

"Thus, after seven unsuccessful years, the Latvians in Sweden have finally for the first time started joint talks. The leader of the Socialdemocrats, Bruno Kalnins, has declared, that all differences will be forgotten, that attacking of Ulmans rule, of Communist occupation times and German occupation will be stopped.

"The Board of the Council was elected as follows:
Chairman - agronomist Andersons (Farmers' Union), members - B. Kalnins (Socialdemocrats), Janis Breiks (Liberals), Malitis (Farmers' Union), Rubuls (Catholics), Col. Lobe (Daugavas Vanagi - veterans) and Prof. Svabe (Latvian National Fund). Lobe and Svabe are sympathizers of the Farmers' Union, but never have been its members.

The agreement reached in Sweden will definitely have favorable consequences. But at the same time this is a victory of the lenient citizens groups. The results can not be appraised yet and only the future, when joint practical activities will be developed, will show the results. But it is clear that the fight and denunciation, practised by certain groups, has ended."

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